

## **Abstract**

This thesis charts the social construction of species superiority in the Euro-Atlantic civilizational area. The goal is to describe the process of construction of this superiority and simultaneously to describe the impact of it. The beginning of the species superiority was domestication of the wild animals. Second defining moment was the transition from a traditional into industrial society, in which the animals were materialized and considered to be an object in trading relationships, as well as the belief in legitimate use of animals for economic purposes in the society. This belief is thoroughly irrational.

Throughout the process of reality construction the society began to perceive the given status as natural and right. In order to escape the question of ethical contradiction it has crowded out the negative aspects of that reality from the perception of its members, in which some psychological mechanisms are helping individuals to escape the reality. The final chapter of this thesis charts the conditions that have made the Holocaust possible and on which our modern rational-economic system lays ground. These conditions are being preserved in the “nature” of the economic system itself.